

June 6, 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR: Ambassador Kidder

SUBJECT: Student Evaluations: Thirty-First Session

All 52 students who completed the questionnaire felt the NIS course should be required before a senior-level field assignment. Only 3 suggested the course might be shortened by one week. None of the comments were sharply critical; several were unusually enthusiastic. For example, "I feel most fortunate to have attended this course and am much better qualified to perform my duties;" "course was outstanding and met all my expectations" (Col., USA); "entire Seminar far more interesting and satisfying than I had dreamed it would be" (FSO-2); "concept of course excellent" (FSCR-2); "an excellent course, very helpful and informative" (Col., USAF); "excellent basis for further independent reading and study" (GS-14).

Practically all respondents agreed on one major benefit of the course -- learning the viewpoints, programs and problems of other agencies. Nearly one-fourth of the group, however, found values in the Seminar seldom mentioned by previous classes -- the opportunity to examine complexities of policy problems in a broader context, and to look in depth at external environmental factors with which U.S. policy must deal. Several mentioned the opportunity for directed reading as one of the major benefits.

Nearly one-third (15) found no significant shortcomings in the present course. Thirteen felt that more time should be given to problems of developing and coordinating programs at the Mission level, and ten would have preferred more specific information on U.S. program resources, with examples of agency roles and limitations (including failures) in particular situations. A few noted a need to relate regional and country problems and policies with the U.S. global position.

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Several would like to see more top-level agency spokesmen as lecturers, hoping that they would be frank on sensitive issues. A few of the military would have preferred more time for military counterinsurgency programs, especially aspects of MAP that could not be covered in one lecture.

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There were scattered criticisms of the Langley visit --
"not as useful as it could have been." Several criticized the [redacted] briefings as "too elementary" and felt that two days for this field trip was excessive.

The afternoon regional-group sessions were rated "very useful" by 23 and "useful" by 26. Only 3 found them of little value. About half felt the afternoon discussions could be better structured, with the faculty advisor leading the discussion. Practically all mentioned briefings by desk-officers as particularly useful. A few wanted more specific guidance on discussion goals. Two recommended that some team meetings be shifted to the mornings to relax the solid lecture schedule.

As usual, library facilities and service were highly commended. More than half of the group would have liked more time for reading, particularly in the first week. Only 5 thought too much reading was required; 19 would have preferred more reading; 25 thought the present requirements satisfactory. Some replies indicate the reading assignments could be better structured, to correlate with lectures and afternoon discussion.

The UAR and Bolivia case studies were rated "very useful" by 49 and 48 respectively, and the Thailand study by 45. The Africa case study, rated "very useful" by 18, was generally felt to be too broad and could better be focused on some "representative" African country. Enthusiasm for the UAR study was partly due to the speaker, Ambassador Badeau, and partly because it coincided with the flare-up in the Middle East.

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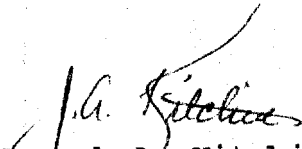
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To the question whether lectures, reading or afternoon sessions contributed most to broadening the individual's perspective on policy problems and programs, a higher proportion than usual rated afternoon sessions (28) and reading (16) as important contributions.

George Lodge, William Mazzocco, Ambassador Badeau, and Justin O'Donnell were mentioned by 20 or more students as particularly informative speakers. Several students commented that the lecturers as a group deserved high praise, and particularly commended the faculty for their handling of the afternoon sessions and for their contributions as lecturers.


Joseph A. Kitchin

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National Interdepartmental Seminar (31st Session)
Schedule for The Day at Langley
18 May 1967

0900 - 0930	En route to Langley
0930 - 1020	Colonel L. K. White <u>CIA in the Intelligence Community</u>
1020 - 1035	Coffee Break
1035 - 1125	Mr. E. Drexel Godfrey, Jr. <u>CIA and CIA-Coordinated Intelligence Support to the U.S. Overseas Internal Defense Program</u>
1125 - 1140	Break
1140 - 1230	25X1A9a <div data-bbox="574 1075 954 1115" style="border: 1px solid black; width: 234px; height: 19px; margin: 2px 0;"></div> <u>CIA's Operational Mission</u>
1230 - 1320	Lunch
1320 - 1330	En route to Station - Operations Center
1330 - 1415	Briefing
1415 - 1425	En route to Station - NPIC Exhibit
1425 - 1510	Briefing
1510 - 1520	En route to bus in front of Auditorium
1520 - 1550	Return to Arlington Towers

(The class will be divided into two rotating groups for the afternoon visits; times shown above are for Group I.)

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